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No. 46**

**Geographical Names Matter**

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UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

# Information Bulletin

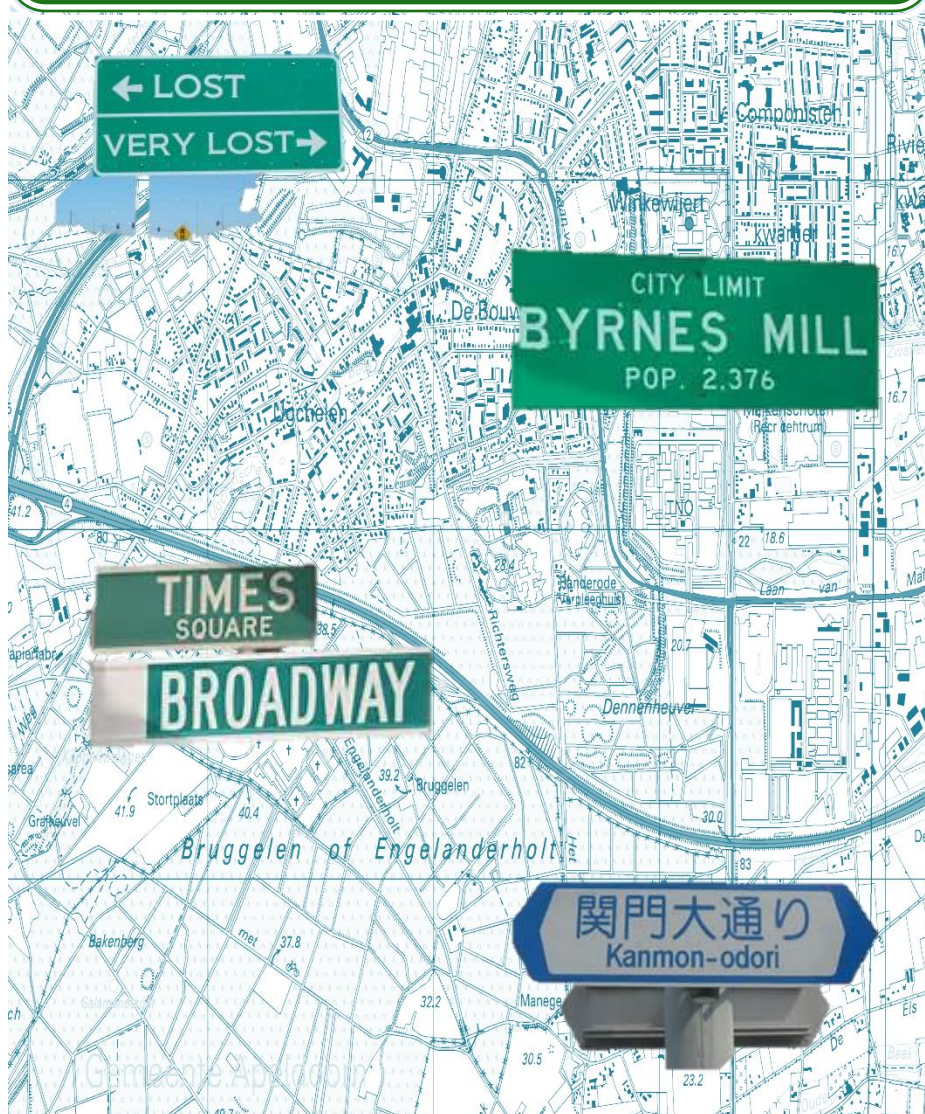
No. 46

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## Geographical Names Matter



# UNEGN

## Information Bulletin

(formerly NEWSLETTER)

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNEG N Newsletter) is issued twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions and reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can

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Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uneegn\\_info\\_bulletins.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uneegn_info_bulletins.htm)

# Preface

## Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all well and making preparations for us to meet together soon. I trust you are now aware that the Note Verbale for the 28 UNGEGN Session has been posted, and a copy can be found at (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/ungegnSession28.html>).

### 28<sup>th</sup> Session UNGEGN

This is an open invitation to all, come to the next Session and participate fully. I am hoping to see familiar faces, to renew friendships and to also welcome new delegates.

Please make every effort to attend, as every Session is an opportunity for each of us to learn and envision new ideas. I thank all those who are preparing papers and reports for presentation.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all delegates of a few points that need to be taken into consideration, as we prepare for this meeting.

1. The number of papers for presentation has steadily increased over the past years. This has resulted in the need to properly manage the time available. We have had to address this issue by reducing the numbers of papers presented and the time allocated for each. We therefore ask you to indicate if your paper will be only tabled for information or for an oral presentation. I cannot see the number of papers decreasing for this session, so this request is still valid.
2. For those papers submitted for presentation, please prepare a short summary of the paper, and it is this summary that is to be presented. There is only a five minute presentation window for each

paper, to allow all presenters the opportunity to discuss aspects of their papers. In the interest of time, I will be asking the Session Chairs throughout the meeting to determine if presentations on the same theme can be grouped together, followed by a question session.

3. Please remember that UNGEGN is a technical committee and not a forum to discuss political issues. I again ask all those preparing papers to bear this in mind, and minimise any potential adverse impact by preparing the papers solely on technical issues.
4. I invite division chairs and working group convenors to use the meeting rooms at times outside the session to hold division and working group meetings. Rooms should be provided on all days of the Session for the following time slots, 8:00-9:45, 13:15-14:45 and 18:15-19:00. Please let me or the Secretariat know your preferred day and time slot. In relation to the holding of meetings of working groups, there are some decisions that need to be made regarding the future of some.

Again, I recognise the efforts of the Secretariat for the work they are doing to organise this Session on our behalf.

**Bill Watt**  
UNGEGN Chair  
Australia  
Email: [william.watt@sa.gov.au](mailto:william.watt@sa.gov.au)

# News from the Secretariat

## Message from the Secretariat

Dear Experts,

**I**t is a delight to share with you my first message in this issue of the UNGEGN Bulletin and an honour to have the opportunity to work with an august body of experts on the standardization and use of geographical names.

I am sure you are all now aware of the upcoming **28<sup>th</sup> Session UNGEGN, 28 April – 2 May 2014 in New York**, in conference room 2 in the main conference building. The Session is only a few weeks away and therefore plans are in high gear to stage a technically stimulating and successful meeting.

The *note verbale* has been sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations and is also posted on the 28 Session UNGEGN web pages. Should you need a country specific invitation to the Session, please send us your request at [geoino\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoino_unsd@un.org).

The *Provisional Agenda* and the *Documentation for the Session* are also online at (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/ungegnSession28.html> ).

We are now accepting technical papers and reports. Please note that the deadline for submission is **7 March 2014**. Details regarding report and paper submissions are included in *Documentation for the Session* (available in English, French, and Spanish). In a continued effort to reduce our carbon foot print we aim to make the Session paperless. All documents will be uploaded to the UNGEGN website, and, therefore, printed copies of presentation documents will not be distributed during the Session. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own digital or paper copies to the meetings.

The organisation of work will be posted in due course. As has been the custom over the past years, rooms will be made available for side events and special presentations on current topical technical issues will be delivered. Side events, such as meetings of Working Groups and Divisions are encouraged and should be registered. Should you wish to have a side event and or have any related questions,

please contact us. Side event requests will be accommodated on a first come first served basis.

Plans are also underway to have an exhibition and experts are encouraged to participate. The details for map and or poster submissions will be posted on line and circulated to the UNGEGN mailing list shortly.

General information on conference logistics, meeting rooms, identification passes, hotel accommodation, and other matters are provided in the *New York Resource Guide*. This is also available on the UNGEGN website.

In terms of publicity material, we have added an informative book mark to our existing products. They were prepared in consultation with the UNGEGN Chair and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. These will be available during the Session. In continuation of our efforts to make UNGEGN's educational material widely available, we are inviting Experts to translate the Media Kits 1-12, (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/mediakit.html>). The kits are now only available in English and Korean.

Please do visit and use the UNGEGN website, a treasure trove of information is available, (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/default.html>) spanning over 26 years. We extend thanks to Helen Kerfoot and Vilma Frani for compiling, scanning and uploading historical documents, which have strengthened UNGEGN's on-line offerings. The next issue of the bulletin is scheduled for September 2014. We welcome your articles, divisional reports and of course your suggestions for improving the website.

Remember to visit the UNGEGN website periodically, make your travel plans, prepare your technical papers, design your posters and or maps for the exhibition and be prepared to have a wonderful Session. We are looking forward to welcoming you to New York for the 28th Session.

**Cecille Blake**  
UNEGN Secretariat  
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## From the Divisions

### Norden Division

**A**s informed in the previous bulletin, the Norden Division held its yearly meeting in Tallin, Estonia, in conjunction with the Baltic Division meeting on 18th September 2013. At this meeting, it was decided that the next Norden Division Meeting will take place in conjunction with the 28th UNGEGN Session in April-May 2014.

The meeting agenda is not yet finalised but will be decided shortly.

**Peder Gammeltoft**

Chair of Norden Division

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# From the Working Groups

## Working Group on Exonyms

### 16<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, Austria

The 16<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting will take place **5-7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in Hermagor**, in the southwestern part of Carinthia, Austria. The first 2 days of the meeting will be dedicated to paper presentations and discussions. On Saturday, 7 June 2014, there will be a common excursion to a picturesque mountain lake (Weißensee) (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: Weißensee at an altitude of 930 m in the Gailtal Alps [Gailtaler Alpen] (Photo: JORDAN 2011)

The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss the **endonym/exonym divide, i.e. the concepts of endonym and exonym as well as possible new definitions**, and to arrive, if possible, at new definitions. This meeting is a follow-up from the very fruitful Corfu Meeting in 2013 and will continue from where the discussions in Corfu ended. For information about the current state of discussions see the book "The Great Toponymic Divide", electronically available under <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/tgtd.php>, the Final Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> WG Meeting in Corfu<sup>1</sup>, as well as the forthcoming proceedings of the Corfu Meeting (see report in this Bulletin).

<sup>1</sup> <http://ungegn.zrc-sazu.si/Portals/7/Corfu%20report.%20final%20version-2.pdf>

The meeting is by no means confined to Working Group members. Everybody interested is welcome. No participation fee is required. Please register for the meeting as soon as possible by addressing [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at)

For information on accommodation, see the website of our conference hotel<sup>2</sup> and reserve your room before 4 May 2014 at the latest, addressing [info@alpenadriahotel.at](mailto:info@alpenadriahotel.at) and mentioning "UNGEGN" as the keyword.

#### Deadlines:

4<sup>th</sup> May 2014: Room reservation

24<sup>th</sup> May 2014: Full paper submission (The full papers will be disseminated to all participants some days before the meeting.)

#### Peter JORDAN

Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms

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<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.bing.com/local/details.aspx?lid=YN9002x2689131&qt=vp&what=Alpen-Adria-Hotel&where=Presseggersee%2c+%c3%96sterreich&s\\_cid=ansPhBkYp02&mkt=de-de&qpv=Alpen-Adria-Hotel+Hermagor-Pressseggersee&FORM=LARE](http://www.bing.com/local/details.aspx?lid=YN9002x2689131&qt=vp&what=Alpen-Adria-Hotel&where=Presseggersee%2c+%c3%96sterreich&s_cid=ansPhBkYp02&mkt=de-de&qpv=Alpen-Adria-Hotel+Hermagor-Pressseggersee&FORM=LARE)

**The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013**, ed. by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (= Name & Place, Vol. 3), published by Dr. Kovač, Hamburg 2014, ISBN 978-3-8300-7747-3.

**T**he book contains papers presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms in Corfu, Greece, in May 2013. The papers deal with the endonym/exonym divide including comprehensive as well as specific approaches and with exonym documentation and use. The book reflects more specifically the current state of discussions on new definitions of *endonym* and *exonym*, which were started at the Gdańsk Meeting in 2012 and intensified since.

### **Contents:**

#### **Part 1: The Great Divide – comprehensive approaches**

- Paul WOODMAN (Grantham, United Kingdom):
  - The scope of activities of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, and the definitions of *endonym* and *exonym*
- Peter JORDAN (Vienna [Wien], Austria):
  - Arguments for new definitions of *endonym* and *exonym*
- Staffan NYSTRÖM (Uppsala, Sweden):
  - Endonym and *exonym* – basically linguistic concepts after all?
- Botolv HELLELAND (Oslo, Norway):
  - Why *Hellas* in Norwegian and *Grekland* in Swedish?
- Ojārs BUŠS (Riga [Rīga], Latvia):
  - Two kinds of endonyms/exonyms – two kinds of interpretation problems
- Małgorzata MANDOLA (Rennes, France & Warsaw [Warszawa], Poland):
  - Reflections on the definition of *exonym*
- Philip W. MATTHEWS (Lower Hutt, New Zealand):
  - Endonyms and *exonyms*: Proposed definitions

#### **Part 2: The Great Divide – specific aspects**

- Peeter PÄLL (Tallinn, Estonia):
  - Exonyms: The special case of countries with non-Roman scripts
- Sungjae CHOO (Seoul, Republic of Korea):
  - The matter of “reading” in the exonym discussions
- Hiroshi TANABE, Kohei WATANABE (Tokyo [Tōkyō],

Japan):

- A reflection on the names of large seas
- Bogusław R. ZAGÓRSKI (Piaśtów & Warszawa [Warszawa], Poland):
  - Some problems of exonym use in Arabic: The case of Arabicized Polish toponyms
- Hermann BELL (Oxford, United Kingdom):
  - Toponymic teleology: Endonyms in an endangered language
- Halim SABBĀR (London, United Kingdom):
  - Language: An essential element of the endonym
- Maciej ZYCH (Warsaw [Warszawa], Poland):
  - Country names in Polish as an example of using exonyms and endonyms
- Ivana CRLJENKO (Zagreb, Croatia):
  - Treatment and definitions of the terms *geographical name*, *exonym* and *endonym* in various Croatian sources
- Gábor MIKESY (Budapest, Hungary):
  - Historical, revived or new names? Problems of exonym use from Hungarian toponymic aspects

#### **Part 3: Exonyms – documentation and use**

- Drago KLADNIK, Matjaž GERŠIČ (Ljubljana, Slovenia):
  - A gazetteer of Slovenian exonyms
- Sirkka PAIKKALA (Helsinki/Helsingfors, Finland):
  - Finnish exonyms: A pragmatic approach to defining *exonym* and *endonym*
- Zane CEKULA (Rēzekne & Riga [Rīga], Latvija):
  - Use of place names on maps in the border area with Russia: The territory of former Abrene
- Maria del Mar BATLLE (Barcelona, Spain):
  - The Catalan toponymy of Pyrénées-Orientales (France)
- Remus CREȚAN (Timișoara, Romania):
  - South Danubian place names reflected in Theodor CAPIDAN’s seminal works

This book as well as volumes 1 and 2 of the toponymic book series Name & Place can be ordered directly from publisher Dr. Kovač (<http://www.verlagdrkovac.de>) or via [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at)

#### **Peter JORDAN**

Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms

Email: [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at)



## Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

**A**s discussed at the Working Group meeting in Suwon, July 2103 and reported in Bulletin No. 45 of October 2013, the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation has focused on encouraging UNGEGN experts to relate their works to the UNCSGN resolutions. In this context, the Working Group has suggested that persons submitting documents to future conferences and sessions be requested to indicate with which resolution(s) they are relevant.

The resolutions database is now ready to be extended to a third language following the English and French versions. Language divisions that are interested are requested to contact the Convenor. The database is hosted by the

National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea and accessible from the UNGEGN web-page (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/confGeneral.html>).

The next meeting of the Working Group will be scheduled within the framework of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session in New York.

### Sungjae CHOO

Convenor, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

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## Working Group on Publicity and Funding

One of the objectives of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding is to help find funding for experts not capable of securing funds to attend UNGEGN Sessions. For this reason, the Working Group submitted a notice in the previous bulletin asking for experts in need of funding to report to the Convenor. I am pleased to announce that the UNSD has kindly agreed to fund the participation of three experts from Africa. A great thank you to the UNSD for their consideration.

The next meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding will be held in conjunction with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation at the 28th UNGEGN Session in April-May 2014.

### Peder Gammeltoft

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)

## Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

### Updates on the discussion forum within the WG website

**T**he discussion forum for several issues related to this WG TDFG was used in 2013 and content uploaded or commented by several colleagues: <https://wiki.qdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Discussion+forum>

The outcome and findings of the discussion forum will be compiled and a Working Paper prepared for the next UNGEGN Session, to be held from 28 April to 2 May 2014 in New York.

The Forums discussed the following topics:

**Forum 1 - volunteered geographic information (VGI)/crowd-sourcing**

**Forum 2 - definitions for gazetteers and data types**

**Forum 3 - general feature types/categories**

Some UNGEGN experts as well as other experts for the respective topics have been registered and have started to

comment and to extend the content of the Wiki "rooms" / pages respectively.

Volunteers from UNGEGN are most welcome to provide content and further initial documents. If you are interested in contributing to these issues, please contact the convenor of the WG or the moderators for the respective topics mentioned on the webpage of the discussion forum.

### The Europe Region of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM Europe)

UN-GGIM is establishing regional committees of experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as an efficient way to make progress and provide useful input to the global UN-GGIM process.

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in July 2013 "*Noted with satisfaction the progress being made towards establishing UN-GGIM*

*Europe, and invited European representatives to report back to the Committee at its next session".*

In response, the European UN Member States have prepared the Articles and Rules of Procedure for UN-GGIM Europe. These will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee or Experts on UN-GGIM. The Fourth Session of the UN Committee of Experts will be held from 6-8 August 2014 in New York.

### Country activities

From Tunisia

- A national committee of toponymy "NCT" (Decree n° 2013-1299, 26 February 2013) was created under the Ministry of Defense. The secretariat of the NCT is assigned to the Centre National de la Cartographie et de la Télédétection (CNCT) of Tunisia.
- A project for the creation of a geographical information consultative structure at the Ministry of National Defense is pending approval. The project will support the government action in the promotion of the geographical information sector and the coordination between all stakeholders in the production, exchange and exploitation of the geographic information.

- A national geocoding database where geonaming is considered in both French and Arabic is to be created. It is an ongoing project where several toponymic issues need to be considered, especially for Arabic geonaming. The main focus is data collection throughout the country.

Ms. Naima Friha, as Vice-Chair of UNGEGN and member of the WG TDFG of UNGEGN, participated in the following conferences/meetings where papers on the geographic names issues were presented:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Director -Generals of National Statistics Offices (30 November - 2 December 2012, Yamoussoukro - Côte d'Ivoire)
- 7<sup>th</sup> session of GEOTUNIS (8-12 April 2013, Hammamet-Tunisia ) <http://www.geotunis.org/fr/>
- Meeting of WGs Publicity/Funding and Implementation/Evaluation, (4-6 July 2013, Seoul-South Korea)

### Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of UNGEGN

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## Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy

### First Circular and Call for Papers Symposium on Place-names Changes

**Y**ou are cordially invited to participate in the international scientific symposium on place-names changes in Rome, 17-18 November 2014, organized by the Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy and the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

### Topic of the symposium

Languages are promoted by political powers and dependent on them. In a historical dimension they come and go depending on political support. Place names as elements of language are part of this historical fluctuation. Due to their symbolic role as markers of geographical features, territories and space-related identities, however, they are even more exposed to political change. Already the replacement of the dominant political or cultural force within a given society can result in place-names changes. A recent example is the rise and fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. But also the commercialisation of our societies has its impact on toponymy. New commercial names replace traditional ones prompting the question, whether place names aren't to be regarded as a part of the cultural heritage and to be

protected for this very reason. Inversions of the namespace (like in South Africa) are certainly caused by a change of dominant political forces. But standardization and public recognition of place names of indigenous and non-dominant groups can also result from new cultural streams and attitudes in a given society like in Canada, where strong efforts are made to codify the languages of indigenous peoples and to display their place names subsequently in public spaces.

Place-name changes often affect street names and in general names in urban spaces, since many of them have commemorative function and are thus closely related to certain historical periods and powers. Names of populated places and especially cities are also frequently subject to names changes due to the prominence of these features and their importance in politics, culture and economy. Special cases are names of administrative units at all spatial levels. They are intimately connected with the dominant political system and accordingly exposed to change.

Thus, the topic of the symposium is highly space-related and geographical, but has also very significant historical, sociological and political dimensions. Linguistic aspects such as the gradual adaptation of names by other languages, the preservation of antiquated name forms or

names changes by orthographic reforms are not as much in the foreground.

**Potential subtopics** (This is not meant as a structure of the symposium, but as a list of subtopics which could be addressed by the papers – without claiming to be complete)

- Reasons and driving forces for/of place-names changes
- The meaning of place names in the political context
- Place names as identity markers
- The role of political changes/inversions with place-names changes
- New societal and cultural directions and streams as reasons for place-name changes
- Political, economic and other intentions behind place-names changes initiated by public authorities
- Commercialisation of the namescape
- Place names as cultural heritage – motives to protect them
- Names categories predominantly affected: street names, names of populated places, names of administrative units...
- Place names in urban space (e.g. street names) as subjects of change
- Change with names of subnational administrative units
- Place names change with other geographical features (populated places, seas...)
- Standardization and official recognition of place names of indigenous and nondominant groups
- Types and directions of place-names change
- Naming motives for new names
- Legislative and other regulations as regards naming and renaming
- Commemorative naming
- Attitudes of international institutions (UNGEGN, UNESCO...) towards placenames changes
- Comparative views on place-names changes in different parts of the world synchronic surveys)
- Comparative views on place-names changes in different periods of history (diachronic surveys)
- Effects of place-names changes on administration, education, science,...
- Attitudes and reactions of the population concerned by place-names changes (empirical studies)

#### Scientific Council and Paper Selection Committee

- Prof. Vincenzo CAFFARELLI, International Council on Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
- Prof. Giuseppe GALASSO, National Member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- Prof. Peter JORDAN, Austrian Academy of Sciences and United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

- Prof. Cosimo PALAGIANO, Università La Sapienza, Corresponding member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- Prof. Paolo POCETTI, University of Rome – Tor Vergata
- Prof. Domenico SILVESTRI, University of Naples "L'Orientale"



*Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome (Photo: Peter JORDAN 2013)*

#### Venue

Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Auditorium, Villa Farnesina, via della Lungara 230, I-00165, Roma, Italy

#### Deadlines:

**31 May 2014:** Registration and announcement of papers. No registration fee is requested.

For registration, please address it to [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at) and cc to [cosimo.palagiano@uniroma1.it](mailto:cosimo.palagiano@uniroma1.it)

**15 September 2014:** Submission of abstracts (max. 400 words)

A **2nd Circular** with a detailed programme of the workshop will follow after the deadline for registration. Looking forward to welcome you in Rome and with kind regards

#### Cosimo PALAGIANO

(IGU Chair, Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy)

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#### Giuseppe GALASSO

(Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei)

#### Peter JORDAN

Steering Board Member, Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy)

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## Task Team for Africa

### Activités du Task Team for Africa

Conformément aux prérogatives du Task Team for Africa, notamment celles relatives à l'encouragement et à la promotion de la toponymie et à la normalisation des noms géographiques en Afrique, plusieurs actions sont à son actif.

Parmi ces actions nous pouvons citer :

1. Sa contribution active à la création d'une Société savante d'Onomastique en Algérie.

Cette Société Savante aura pour but de favoriser l'avancement de la recherche dans le domaine de la toponymie et de l'anthroponymie et sciences connexes, de coordonner les travaux des compétences spécialisées dans cette discipline, de les aider dans leurs recherches, d'établir des bases de données des noms de lieux et de personnes de l'Algérie, de faire connaître les résultats obtenus et de contribuer en collaboration avec le Conseil National de l'Information Géographique algérien, à la définition d'une politique nationale en matière de normalisation toponymique. Elle sera un cadre de réflexion et de concertation à caractère académique.

Plus de 100 membres, issus de plusieurs domaines scientifiques et intéressés par la problématique de l'Onomastique et de la normalisation des noms géographiques sont déjà membres de cette Société.

2. La programmation en Septembre prochain d'un Colloque international sur la normalisation des noms géographiques dans les pays du Maghreb et du Sahel.

Ce Colloque qui se tiendra à Alger (Algérie), regroupera notamment les pays suivants : Mauritanie,

Maroc, Algérie, Tunisie, Libye, Tchad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso ainsi que tout autre pays arabe ou Africain qui souhaitera y participer.

D'autres institutions internationales sont également invitées telles : la Ligue Arabe, la CEA/NU, le Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG), l'Union africaine, la Division arabe et la Division francophone, le Groupe de Travail sur les systèmes de translittération du GENUNG etc. La participation à ce Colloque est ouverte à tous les pays ou compétences qui y seraient intéressés.

Ce Colloque vise essentiellement à relancer et à coordonner l'activité toponymique dans les pays de la région. Il vise également à la création d'une Division Nord Africaine du GENUNG, et à la réflexion pour la mise en place d'une politique de normalisation toponymique commune.

3. L'organisation d'un cours de formation en collaboration avec le Training WG du GENUNG. Ce cours de formation sera donné au profit des pays participants au Colloque international prévu en septembre prochain. Ce cours sera animé notamment by Monsieur Ferjean Ormelling, Madame Helen Kerfoot, Monsieur Helleland Botolov et Monsieur Peeter Päll.

Il est noter la contribution fort appréciable du Secrétariat du GENUNG à l'organisation de ces deux rencontres.

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# From the Countries

## Brazil

### News from Brazil

**T**he Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) is currently translating into Portuguese the UNGEGN document "Resolutions Adopted at the Ten United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names".

The translation is intended to be made available on the Portuguese-speaking Division's website ([www.dlpng.ibge.gov.br](http://www.dlpng.ibge.gov.br)) before the 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on 28 April.

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## Cuba

### Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos

Informe de Cuba a la Décima Conferencia de Nombres Geográficos de la Organización de Naciones Unidas  
(Junio) 2013)

**D**esde la Novena Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Normalización de los Nombres Geográficos celebrada en el año 2007 en la ciudad de New York, la Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos (CNNG) de Cuba se ha mantenido trabajando en el cumplimiento de sus funciones, lo que le ha permitido avanzar en la ampliación del número de topónimos nacionales normalizados, además de concluir la norma cubana de Toponimia, Términos y Definiciones, donde se incluyen 221 términos con sus definiciones para el uso en el campo de la toponimia.

De igual forma, se ha trabajado en la preparación de páginas Web por cada uno de los Grupos Técnicos Asesores Provinciales, encargados de realizar los trabajos de normalización de los nombres geográficos a nivel de provincia, los que, en la medida que vayan concluyendo los resultados solicitados por la CNNG, a saber: los mapas toponímicos, diccionarios geográficos y nomenclátors provinciales, así como las Investigaciones toponímicas municipales, se irán incluyendo en sus respectivas páginas Web.

Un ejemplo que puede ser consultado es el correspondiente al Grupo Técnico Asesor de Nombres Geográficos de la provincia de Sancti Spiritus, al que puede accederse a través del Geoportal de la infraestructura de datos espaciales de la República de Cuba en la dirección <http://www.iderc.co.cu/gta>, ubicado junto a la Página Web de la Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos <http://www.iderc.co.cu/cnng>, todas incorporadas a ese portal, como tributo a ella por la CNNG.

Recientemente fueron aprobadas en correspondencia con lo que establece el Decreto No 150 la "Lista de nombres de países y capitales" y la "Lista de los principales hidrónimos y orónimos del mundo" las que próximamente serán incorporadas a la página web de nuestra Comisión conjuntamente con la "Lista de nombres de las áreas protegidas de Cuba" de esta manera serán materiales de consulta a disposición de todos los usuarios interesados en el tema.

Paralelamente se trabaja en la etapa final de la aprobación de las listas siguientes:

- Lista de los Poblados Urbanos de Cuba, (En su elaboración se han considerado los resultados del último Censo de Población y Viviendas realizado en Cuba en el año 2012).
- Tercera lista de las áreas protegidas de Cuba. (La que unida a las dos anteriores permitirá mostrar en un mismo documento la totalidad de los nombres que identifican las áreas declaradas como protegidas de Cuba).

Se trabaja además en la rectificación y enriquecimiento del Cartosig-NG, es decir, del programa que aglutina todo el universo de topónimos normalizados de Cuba y que permite la obtención de listas de nombres normalizados según diferentes intereses junto con las especificidades contenidas en el nomenclátor para cada topónimo.

Este programa, por un lado, constituye una herramienta útil para los dibujantes encargados de la elaboración de los diferentes mapas. Por otro lado, el Cartosig-NG garantiza una consulta ágil de los nombres geográficos normalizados para todas las entidades que lo necesiten, así como para la elaboración de textos u otro resultado donde se requiera del uso correcto de los nombres geográficos normalizados de Cuba.

Este programa permite también desplegar el *Nomenclátor de Nombres Geográficos Normalizados*, tanto de cada una de las provincias por separado, como de toda Cuba. En dicho nomenclátor se ofrece, por cada topónimo, información relacionada con el término genérico, la provincia y municipio en que se localiza el accidente, la latitud y longitud en grados minutos y segundos del centro aproximado del mismo, así como la nomenclatura del mapa topográfico a escala 1:25000 en que se encuentra ubicado el accidente geográfico de que se trate.

*El Nomenclátor de Nombres Geográficos Normalizados de Cuba* fue publicado por la Comisión Nacional de Nombres geográficos en el año 2000 y contenía, en esta primera edición, alrededor de 9000 topónimos. Desde entonces el *Nomenclátor* se ha enriquecido con el aporte de los Grupos Técnicos Asesores Provinciales quienes a partir de la recopilación de los topónimos contenidos en las hojas del mapa topográfico a escala 1:25000 aglutinaron y normalizaron los topónimos correspondientes a cada provincia; estos últimos fueron remitidos por cada provincia a la Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos para tener

su conformidad y finalmente solicitar la aprobación del Presidente del gobierno provincial en cumplimiento de lo estipulado en el DECRETO No 150, documento legal que respalda el trabajo de la CNNG y los Grupos Técnicos Asesores. Como resultado, contamos hoy con un nomenclátor digital incorporado a la base de datos (CARTOSIG-NG) que aglutina unos 23000 topónimos normalizados incluidos en el programa Cartosig-NG sobre el cual se trabaja para su incorporación a la página web de la CNNG.

También en esta etapa (2012-2013) se prepararon los mapas toponímicos del mundo, Centroamérica, el Caribe y Cuba, en los que todos los nombres geográficos que se muestran están normalizados.

### **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations**

## **Norway**

### **Renewing the system for collecting and storing place names in Norway**

The Norwegian mapping authority will, during the next year and a half, build a new management system for handling place names in Norway. This system, built on a Java web start application, will make it easy for all actors working with place names to register their names into the national database. The new system will include services for viewing and downloading data for processing and analyzing. Like the old system we will also have services for searching and location. We will also include change log API for synchronizing with the users of copy databases.

In the planning of the new system we have attempted to include the Inspire data model. However, this is only used

as a super structure, and we need to make mapping from our database to the Inspire infrastructure.

The whole system will be built for the purpose of handling place names as intended in the Norwegian Place-Names Act, and will therefore have a built in procedure to control that the intention in the Act is fulfilled. The system will also give other interests the possibility to register proposals for place names.

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# Special Projects and News Items

## UN-GGIM Activities

### UN-GGIM Providing Global Leadership for Geospatial Information Management

The United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) provides an inter-governmental mechanism to make joint decisions and set directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks, and plays a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information, infrastructure and its management.

Since its third session held in Cambridge in July 2013, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has coordinated four events: Chengdu Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, the first meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, UN-GGIM Side Event during the Seventh Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the second meeting of the UN-GGIM for the Arab States and the

### UN-GGIM Experts Share Methodologies and Applications in Urban Hazard Mapping in Chengdu China

More than 180 experts from 40 countries attended the Chengdu Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management in Chengdu, China from 15-17 October 2013. Convened by the Secretariat of UN-GGIM and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) of China, and with the theme Development and Applications in Urban Hazard Mapping, participants met to share experiences and methodologies in the production, management, analysis, modelling and dissemination capacity of hazard related geospatial information.

Specifically the forum considered natural hazard impact analysis data requirements, integration techniques, and analytical modeling applications for a range of natural hazard phenomena. It also examined the types of fundamental geo-information which are key inputs to the hazard and risk assessment process.

The Forum concluded that geospatial information has a vital role to play in all phases of hazard and disaster risk management and reduction, and it extends the ability for nations to not only map their geography and topography, but also those areas that are vulnerable to natural hazards, particularly in urban environments.

Some major conclusions were:

1. As global geospatial information experts, consider how we contribute to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, particularly in the areas of: disaster risk reduction and mitigation; sustainable development; and the global trend towards urbanization.
2. In order to better understand the role of standards and metadata when using geospatial information in disaster phases, we need to include standardization and related terminologies across countries to ensure interoperability and consistent data models.
3. Geospatial information contributes to building resilience and disaster preparedness. It is an education and communication tool that brings the science and the hazards together. A defined set of hazard and risk geospatial data themes are needed to communicate, understand and map the hazards.
4. Existing institutional and policy barriers to data sharing fall away in response to disasters. At other times there are data silos and security concerns. These concerns need to be balanced with the need to make more data available. Mature SDI's can meet the need to making more data available.
5. Urban hazard and disaster mapping should be a key input into the development of a Global Map for Sustainable Development (GM4SD) by UN-GGIM.

Additional information on this forum and presentations are available at <http://ggim.un.org/Chengdu%20Forum.html>

### Expert Group Meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, New York, 30 October-1 November 2013

The United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, recently established and composed of representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities, held its first meeting, from 30 October - 1 November 2013 in New York. The meeting, opened by the UNSD Acting Director, provided a discussion forum for the experts from both communities on the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group and a range of topics around the development of a statistical spatial framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and

geospatial information. Other topics included geospatially coding statistics, geographic data linking, common geographic classifications, metadata standards and interoperability, confidentiality and data access. The meeting was attended by 26 delegates, from 16 countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saint Lucia, USA) and two organizations (Eurostat/European Commission and ESCWA).

It was acknowledged that in order to meet the objective of providing a forum for coordination and dialogue among representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities, with a view to developing and advancing the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework, it was important to first share knowledge of existing terminologies and practices (the Expert Group agreed to develop a web-based portal to share knowledge, including a glossary of terminology, and requested UNSD to host this portal). The Expert Group also agreed that both statistical and geospatial communities should reach out to each other, and asked UNSD to make contact with relevant groups dealing with metadata standards to inform them of the establishment of the Expert Group and put in place coordination mechanisms. In implementation of the Statistical Commission decision and UN-GGIM endorsement, the Expert Group agreed to hold an International Conference on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, in conjunction with the fourth session of UN-GGIM, in August 2014 in New York, in order to minimise costs and maximise attendance. The Expert Group noted that it will be important to ensure good representation from the statistical community, and requested UNSD to organize the Conference, following a format with plenary and panel sessions.

#### **UN-GGIM Side Event During The Seventh Session Of The Open Working Group On Sustainable Development Goals, New York, January 2014**

Geospatial information services and platforms have become key contributors to improved decision making and policy formulation, and have enhanced the capability for governments, international organizations and researchers to analyze, monitor and report on sustainable development and other global concerns. The Rio+20 outcome document 'The future we want' specifically recognized the importance of "reliable geospatial information" in the areas of national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, and for sustainable development, policymaking, programming and project operations.

In its continued effort to increase the understanding, use and application of geospatial information in solving real world issues and contributing to the sustainable development efforts, on 10 January 2014, during the Seventh Session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Secretariat of UN-GGIM convened a side event. The theme of the event

was the Role of Geospatial Information in Measuring and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals: Disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, and global urbanization.

The side event included presentations from four Member States, China, Japan, Mexico and the United States, and clearly demonstrated the critical role that geospatial information is able to play in measuring and monitoring the post-2015 development agenda. The presentations were followed by open discussions with members of the Open Working Group.

Additional information on this session, inclusive of presentations is available at <http://ggim.un.org/OWG.html>.

#### **UN-GGIM for the Arab States Meeting, Amman, 5-6 February 2014**

The UN- Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States, a regional committee being established and composed of representatives from Arab States, held its second meeting, from 5 - 6 February 2013 in Amman, Jordan. The meeting, organized by UNSD, in collaboration with ESCWA and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center of the Government of Jordan, was opened by the UNSD representative, providing a forum to share national practices and strategies on the use of geospatial information, and particularly to discuss the "Mission and Functions" and the "Statutes" of the UN-GGIM Arab States as well its proposed "Work Programme". The meeting was attended by 35 delegates, from 13 countries (Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia) and 5 international and regional organizations (UN-GGIM, UN-GGIM-AP, UN-GGIM-Europe, GCC-STAT and ESCWA).

The participating countries represented a wide spectrum of national experiences in geospatial information as well as statistical activities. This variety of experiences enriched the discussions as countries were interested to learn from the experience of others. Countries showed their keen interest in the building of national geospatial infrastructures, and the use of geospatial information, particularly its integration with statistical information. However there are still some challenges, including on new technologies and reaching various categories of geospatial data users or potential users. Based on the interactive discussions, participants identified and proposed a set of recommendations to improve geospatial information development at national and regional levels. Participants agreed to form a Transitional Bureau for the UN-GGIM Arab States to be led by Jordan (the Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC)), representing the national mapping agencies of the region, and by Oman, (the Director General of the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat)), representing the national statistical offices in the region. Participants also agreed to form two working

groups: a Working Group on "Mission" and "Statutes" of the UN-GGIM for the Arab States, and a Working Group on the Work Programme. The Transitional Bureau will, by mid-April 2014, prepare the report to be submitted to the 4th session of UN-GGIM, to be held in August 2014, in New York.

Further information on these two events are available on GGIM website: <http://ggim.un.org>

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## **Preservation of Indigenous geographical names**

**I**n pursuance of United Nations resolutions recommending the recording and preservation of indigenous geographical names, Professor Peter E. Raper, former chairman of UNGEGN, has published a study entitled "Bushman (San) influence on Zulu place names".

In view of the relevance of this publication to the work of the Group, the Department of Linguistics of the University

of the Free State, South Africa, is making it available to members of UNGEGN free of charge. It may be obtained on request from Mrs Chrismi Loth at [lothc@ufs.ac.za](mailto:lothc@ufs.ac.za).

#### **Peter Raper**

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## **Book Review**

### **Bushman (San) influence on Zulu place names - a fresh look at South African Toponymy**

Review of *Bushman (San) influence on Zulu place names* by Peter E. Raper, Professor Extraordinary in Linguistics and Research Associate, Department of Linguistics and Language Practice, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa

**W**hen the internationally acclaimed author of articles, books and dictionaries on geographical names, Peter Raper, puts his research onto paper, it is usually well worth reading. This publication appears as Supplementum 2 for the journal *Acta Academica* 2012.

If anyone is interested in the origin of the names *Amanzimtoti*, *aMatakulu*, *Babanango*, *Cedara*, *Dukuza*, *Hluhluwe*, *Isandlwana*, *KwaMashu*, and many other Zulu place names, this publication is well worth reading. It is important to any reader interested in the development of South African indigenous languages and peoples, especially what is known as the first people who occupied the southern part of Africa from about 120,000 years ago, the hunter-gatherers. In the Preface mention is made of the valuable contribution this publication makes to the restoration of the heritage of the Bushman people in a new and original way. The author states how valuable place names are as historical indicators to throw light on "the language and the cultural and linguistic heritage of the people who bestowed them." From a linguistic point of view the reliability of the conclusions reached to point out

the influence that the Bushman had on place names in South Africa, in this case Zulu place names, lies in the meticulous way in which the data is analysed. The author explains that the processes of adaptation led to Bushman words being adapted to Zulu place names as well as Zulu words derived from Bushman by the replacement of language specific clicks and suction sounds to form Zulu names. The use of clicks as retained in a name written according to the Zulu orthography, are good indicators of Bushman influence. Although the explanation of the linguistic processes may at first appear too complicated for the layman, the author describes these processes in such clear and reader friendly language that with a certain amount of concentration it can be followed by anyone who has an interest in the subject.

For the onomastician a close study of the text reveals many aspects of onomastic theory intertwined with sociolinguistic facts about the historical and cultural relevance of place names. Where words from different Bushman languages occur in one specific name, it can be explained in terms of the similarities in the roots of words of those Bushman languages that have been recorded. Any lack of knowledge about who the Bushman people were is filled in by the information given on the location and spread of the different ethnic groups and characteristics of the Bushman languages. This is compared to characteristics of the Zulu language which is an eye-opener towards the phonological and semantic correspondence with Bushman words. The mere fact that such similarities can be pointed out and discussed, rests on the exceptional talent and knowledge of the author to analyse well known records and dictionaries

from linguists such as Bleek, Doke and Vilakazi, Nienaber, Traill, etc. in which data from Bushman languages are explained.

An example of new insights is the explanation of *KwaMaduma* on page 77. At first sight the average reader would translate this name as 'the place of Maduma', where 'Maduma' would possibly be understood as being a personal name. The author points to T.J.R. Botha's research which explains that 'duma' refers to thunder, or the thundering one and that 'kwa' is more likely to be cognate with /Xam (S1) *k'wa* 'roar', a meaning that was preserved by oral tradition. However, it was misconstrued as the Zulu locative prefix *kwa* which led to the adding of another Zulu prefix *ma* to go before the word *duma*. The phonological terms used in the explanation of the whole process could sound difficult but words like 'consonant *d*' corresponding to the Bushman '....click' and 'suffix that turns a verb into a noun' makes it easier to follow and understand.

Explanations based on topographical congruence when other explanations are not sufficient, as in the case of *Phongola*, accentuates the linguistic variety of the country in which names from different cultural groups relate to the feature under discussion. It would otherwise be impossible to understand how well-known place names like *Potchefstroom*, *Moorivier* and *Phongola* could be related linguistically. We find interesting explanations for names like *Devil's Peak*, *KwaZulu*, *eNtabazwe* and others where for instance the component 'devil' does not refer to the devil at all but has a Bushman origin which refers to 'wind'.

Bushman influence on prefixes in Zulu toponyms can be seen by deducing generics from names that refer to specific features like hills or rivers. It is shown that certain components in the name are actually generics that can be compared to a Bushman word referring to the feature,

implying that the generic term is imbedded in the suffixes used as locatives in certain Zulu toponyms.

When we look at the explanation of words from the Zulu vocabulary that occur in Zulu place names like *Mzimkulu*, *Ixopo*, *Sibayi*, *Babanango*, *Mhlathuzana*, etc. and read that stems like *-zim-*, *-xopo-*, *-siba-*, *-baba-* and *-hla-* are often not found in Zulu dictionaries, the author gives us the Bushman words that match the meaning of the Zulu words. Here we realise how linguistic processes work at the time of language contact. This article bridges the gap between one culture on the edge of extinction that has revived not only culturally but nationally as a minority group, the Bushman, and another cultural group with a linguistic majority, the Zulu. The cross cultural influence exposed in this article adds to social cohesion and will hopefully restore awareness of the heritage of the Bushman, while simultaneously emphasising the interrelatedness between many South Africans.

While this study indicates the influence of the Bushman languages on semantic, lexical, phonological and morpho-syntactical levels of Zulu place names, the author plans to extend his research to include Bushman influence on Xhosa, Swazi, Tswana, Sotho, Tsonga, Afrikaans and other South African languages. In his conclusion he comments that the comprehensive product will make it possible to identify patterns, sound shifts, determination of relatedness between languages, and more. This is outstanding linguistic research with the added value of being culturally significant for a country in the process of nation building.

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## Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names



Some forthcoming meetings of organizations relevant to geographical names

### **Norden Division Meeting**

will be held in conjunction with the 28th UNGEGN  
Session in *April-May 2014*

### **Working Group on Publicity and Funding**

will be held in conjunction with the Working Group on  
Evaluation and Implementation at the 28th UNGEGN  
Session in *April-May 2014*

### **UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting**

*5-7<sup>th</sup> June 2014* in Hermagor, southwestern part of  
Carinthia/Austria

### **Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy**

First Circular and Call for Papers Symposium  
On Place-names changes  
Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei  
Rome [Roma], Italy  
*17 -18 November 2014*